

Malena F. Barzilai
Senior Counsel, Government Affairs
Windstream Corporation
1101 17th Street, N.W., Suite 802
Washington, DC 20036

(202) 223-4276
malena.barzilai@windstream.com



VIA ECFS

EX PARTE

April 15, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *WC Docket No. 10-90, Connect America Fund; WC Docket No. 05-337, High-Cost Universal Service Support*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 11, 2013, Eric Einhorn of Windstream Corporation (“Windstream”) spoke by telephone with Angela Kronenberg, Wireline Legal Advisor to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, about potential modifications to the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) Phase I program.

Consistent with its prior advocacy and the joint comments submitted by USTelecom, ITTA, and the ABC Coalition,¹ Windstream emphasized the need to ensure that only those areas that actually are served by 4/1 Mbps broadband—by an incumbent local exchange carrier and/or an unsubsidized competitor—would be excluded from eligibility for CAF Phase I support. Windstream also explained that it expects that more than 80 percent of currently unserved² customers in an area that is enabled for 4/1 Mbps service through the CAF Phase I program actually would receive broadband speeds at or greater than 10/1 Mbps.

¹ See Comments of Windstream Corporation, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Jan. 9, 2013); Comments of the United States Telecom Association, Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and the ABC Coalition, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Jan. 28, 2013); Reply Comments of the United States Telecom Association, the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and the ABC Coalition, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337 (filed Feb. 11, 2013).

² See *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, at ¶ 9 (Nov. 19, 2012) (proposing to define an “unserved” area as an area lacking access to 4/1 Mbps broadband service).

Windstream expressed its commitment to leverage CAF Phase I funding with a substantial capital contribution and estimated that it could reach at least 100,000 unserved locations if its suggested program modifications are adopted.

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Malena F. Barzilai

Malena F. Barzilai

cc: Angela Kronenberg